United Nations S/2016/981

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 November 2016

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Egypt on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 28 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations stating that Colonel Walaa Bibers has been appointed alternate representative of Egypt on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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United Nations S/2016/982

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 November 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 20 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Armed terrorist groups located in the eastern part of Aleppo have perpetrated another despicable, deliberate and premeditated massacre. This time, the victims were children at the Furqan school and the Sariyah Hassun school in the Furqan neighbourhood in western Aleppo. That criminal act killed 10 students ranging in age between seven and 12, and injured 29 others, including a woman teacher whose leg had to be amputated. Sources at both schools confirmed that the students had been assembled in the schools' courtyards to write friendship letters to their fellow schoolchildren in eastern Aleppo.

Terrorist organizations deployed in Bustan al-Qasr in eastern Aleppo fired their missiles of hate at those two schools in order to kill as many students and teachers as possible. In addition to attacking those two schools, terrorists belonging to the Nusrah Front, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki movement, and other organizations that Washington, Paris, London, Doha and Riyadh call "moderate armed organizations" and provide with salaries, financing and weapons, opened fire at the Faculty of Law and the Mogambo and Midan neighbourhoods, killing two people and injuring 23 others. Shells fired by armed terrorist groups also killed two civilians and injured seven others in the A'zamiyah and Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhoods in western Aleppo.

The attacks by armed terrorist groups come after a series of truces declared by the Syrian Government and its allies to spare the lives of innocent civilians in Aleppo. They were launched by armed terrorist groups that get their instructions from foreign capitals and other parties that the Syrian Government has been identifying for some time, and which it also holds responsible for other massacres that have taken place on Syrian territory. Those parties are sending thousands of mercenaries to kill Syrians and destroy the infrastructure built by the sweat of the Syrian people. The continuing terrorist crimes show that support for terrorism is now the established policy of those States, which have used international institutions, including the Security Council, as platforms to justify what the terrorists are doing and obstruct any efforts to condemn or stop them.

Syria hopes for an end to terrorism and an end to the financing of the mercenaries who attack Syrian schools and hospitals, many of which have been

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turned into bases for the armed terrorists to commit further crimes. Syria also calls for the implementation of Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, and in particular resolution 2253 (2015), which was adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and which is being ignored by the sponsors of terrorism in Ankara, Doha and elsewhere. The Syrian people and other peoples of the world fighting terrorism will never be fooled by the duplicitous campaigns being waged by Western officials, their regional proxies and the terrorist-friendly media, which are trying to distort the truth about what is going on in Syria in order to sap the determination of the people and leadership of Syria to fight and vanquish terrorism so that they can reach a political solution based on a Syrian-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership and without foreign interference.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/983

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 November 2016

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

At its 7488th meeting, held on 20 July 2015 in connection with the item entitled "Non-proliferation", the Security Council adopted resolution 2231 (2015).

In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Security Council requested the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide regular updates to the Council on the implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to report at any time any issue of concern directly affecting the fulfilment of those commitments.

Accordingly, the President herewith circulates the report of the Director General dated 9 November 2016 (see annex).

16-20609 (E) 221116

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Annex

Letter dated 9 November 2016 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the document submitted to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and the enclosed document to the attention of all members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukiya **Amano**

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231* (2015)

Report by the Director General

A. Introduction

1. This report of the Director General to the Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the United Nations Security Council (Security Council), is on the Islamic Republic of Iran's (Iran's) implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and on matters related to verification and monitoring in Iran in light of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). It also provides information on financial matters, and the Agency's consultations and exchanges of information with the Joint Commission, established by the JCPOA.

B. Background

2. On 14 July 2015, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (E3/EU+3) and Iran agreed on the JCPOA. On 20 July 2015, the Security Council adopted resolution 2231 (2015), in which, inter alia, it requested the Director General to "undertake the necessary verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments for the full duration of those commitments under the JCPOA".[1] In August 2015, the Board of Governors authorized the Director General to implement the necessary verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments as set out in the JCPOA, and report accordingly, for the full duration of those commitments in light of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), subject to the availability of funds and consistent with the Agency's standard safeguards practices. The Board of Governors also authorized the Agency to consult and exchange information with the Joint Commission, as set out in GOV/2015/53 and Corr. 1.

3. The estimated annual cost to the Agency for the implementation of Iran's Additional Protocol and for verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear-related commitments as set out in the JCPOA is €9.2 million per annum, all of which is provided from extrabudgetary funds in 2016. As of 1 November 2016, the total amount that has been made available to the Agency for the implementation of the Additional Protocol and for verification and monitoring in relation to the JCPOA

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* Circulated to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency under the symbol GOV/2016/53.

[1] The actions requested of the Director General by the Security Council as contained in resolution 2231 (2015) are set out in GOV/2015/53 and Corr. 1, para. 8.

was €11.0 million, including the unspent balance of the funds for Joint Plan of Action (JPA) activities.

C. JCPOA Verification and Monitoring Activities

4. Since 16 January 2016 (JCPOA Implementation Day), the Agency has verified and monitored Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA,[2,3] and reports the following for the period since the issuance of the Director General's previous quarterly report.[4]

C.1. Activities Related to Heavy Water and Reprocessing

5. Iran has not pursued the construction of the existing Arak heavy water research reactor (IR-40 Reactor) based on its original design.[5] Iran has not produced or tested natural uranium pellets, fuel pins or fuel assemblies specifically designed for the support of the IR-40 Reactor as originally designed, and all existing natural uranium pellets and fuel assemblies have remained in storage under continuous Agency monitoring (paras. 3 and 10).[6]

6. Iran has continued to inform the Agency about the inventory of heavy water in Iran and the production of heavy water at the Heavy Water Production Plant (HWPP)[7] and allowed the Agency to monitor the quantities of Iran's heavy water stocks and the amount of heavy water produced at the HWPP (para. 15). On 25 October 2016, the Agency verified that Iran's stock of heavy water had reached 130.0 metric tonnes (para. 14).[8] On 2 November 2016, the Director General expressed concerns related to Iran's stock of heavy water to the Vice President of Iran and President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, HE Ali Akbar Salehi. On 8 November 2016, the Agency verified that Iran's stock of heavy water had reached 130.1 metric tonnes. In a letter received by the Agency on 9 November 2016, Iran informed the Agency of "Iran's plan to make preparation for transfer of 5 metric tons of its nuclear grade heavy water" out of Iran.[9]

7. Iran has not carried out activities related to reprocessing at the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR) and the Molybdenum, Iodine and Xenon Radioisotope Production (MIX) Facility or at any of the other facilities it has declared to the Agency (para. 18).

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[2] GOV/INF/2016/8, para. 6.
[3] Note by the Secretariat, 2016/Note 5.
[4] GOV/2016/46.
[5] The calandria was removed from the reactor and rendered inoperable during preparation for Implementation Day and has been retained in Iran (GOV/INF/2016/1, Arak heavy water research reactor, paras 3(ii) and 3(iii)).
[6] The paragraph references in parentheses throughout Sections C and D of this report correspond to the paragraphs of 'Annex I — Nuclear-related measures' of the JCPOA.
[7] HWPP is a facility for the production of heavy water with a nominal design capacity of 16 tonnes of nuclear-grade heavy water per year.
[8] Iran's stock includes nuclear-grade heavy water and its equivalent in different enrichments.
[9] The quantity of heavy water to be transferred out of Iran will be verified by the Agency.

C.2. Activities Related to Enrichment and Fuel

8. At the Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) at Natanz, no more than 5060 IR-1 centrifuges have remained installed in 30 cascades in their configurations in the operating units at the time the JCPOA was agreed (para. 27). Iran has withdrawn 48 IR-1 centrifuges from those held in storage[10] for the replacement of damaged or failed IR-1 centrifuges installed at FEP (para. 29.1).

9. Iran has continued the enrichment of UF_6 at FEP.[11] Iran has not enriched uranium above 3.67% U-235 (para. 28).

10. Technical discussions between the Agency and Iran relating to the quantity of enriched uranium in the process lines at the Enriched UO_2 Powder Plant (EUPP) at Esfahan remain ongoing.[12]

11. Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile did not exceed 300 kg of UF_6 enriched up to 3.67% U-235 (or the equivalent in different chemical forms) (para. 56).[13]

12. At the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP), 1044 IR-1 centrifuges have been maintained in one wing of the facility (para. 46), of which 1042 IR-1 centrifuges have remained installed in six cascades and two IR-1 centrifuges have remained installed separately for the purpose of conducting "initial research and R&D activities related to stable isotope production".[14] Throughout the reporting period, Iran has not conducted any uranium enrichment or related research and development (R&D) activities, and there has not been any nuclear material at the plant (para. 45).

13. All centrifuges and associated infrastructure in storage have remained under continuous Agency monitoring (paras. 29, 47, 48 and 70).[15] The Agency has continued to have regular access to relevant buildings at Natanz, including all of FEP and the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP), and performed daily access upon Agency request (para. 71).

14. Iran has conducted its enrichment activities in line with its long-term enrichment and R&D enrichment plan, as provided to the Agency on 16 January 2016 (para. 52).

15. Iran has not operated any of its declared facilities for the purpose of reconverting fuel plates or scrap into UF_6, nor has it informed the Agency that it has built any new facilities for such a purpose (para. 58).

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[10] See para. 13 of this report.

[11] Under the JCPOA, "[f]or 15 years the Natanz enrichment site will be the sole location for all of Iran's uranium enrichment related activities including safeguarded R&D" (para. 72).

[12] GOV/2016/46, para. 10.

[13] 300 kg of UF_6 enriched up to 3.67% contains 202.8 kg of uranium, considering the standard atomic weight of uranium and fluorine.

[14] GOV/2016/46, para. 12.

[15] GOV/2016/46, footnote 15.

C.3. Centrifuge Research & Development, Manufacturing and Inventory

16. No enriched uranium has been accumulated through enrichment R&D activities, and Iran's enrichment R&D with and without uranium has been conducted using centrifuges within the limits defined in the JCPOA (paras. 32-42).

17. Iran has provided declarations to the Agency of its production and inventory of centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows and permitted the Agency to verify the items in the inventory (para. 80.1). The Agency has conducted continuous monitoring, including through the use of containment and surveillance measures, and verified that the declared equipment has been used for the production of rotor tubes and bellows to manufacture centrifuges only for the activities specified in the JCPOA (para. 80.2). Iran has not produced any IR-1 centrifuges to replace those that have been damaged or failed (para. 62).

18. All declared rotor tubes bellows and rotor assemblies have been under continuous monitoring by the Agency, including those rotor tubes and bellows manufactured since Implementation Day (para. 70). Iran has manufactured rotor tubes during the reporting period.[16]

D. Transparency Measures

19. Iran has continued to permit the Agency to use online enrichment monitors and electronic seals which communicate their status within nuclear sites to Agency inspectors, and to facilitate the automated collection of Agency measurement recordings registered by installed measurement devices (para. 67.1). Iran has issued long-term visas to Agency inspectors designated for Iran as requested by the Agency and provided proper working space for the Agency at nuclear sites and facilitated the use of working space at locations near nuclear sites in Iran (para. 67.2).

20. Iran has continued to permit the Agency to monitor — through measures agreed with Iran, including containment and surveillance measures — all uranium ore concentrate (UOC) produced in Iran or obtained from any other source, and reported by Iran to the Agency. Iran also provided the Agency with all information necessary to enable the Agency to verify the production of UOC and the inventory of UOC produced in Iran or obtained from any other source (para. 69).

E. Other Relevant Information

21. Iran continues to provisionally apply the Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement in accordance with Article 17(b) of the Additional Protocol, pending its entry into force. The Agency has continued to evaluate the declarations submitted by Iran under the Additional Protocol[17] and to conduct complementary accesses under the Additional Protocol to sites and other locations in Iran.

[16] GOV/2016/46, para. 18.
[17] GOV/2016/46, para. 21.

22. During this reporting period, the Agency has not attended meetings of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission (JCPOA, Annex IV — Joint Commission, para. 6.4.6).

F. Summary

23. The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material at the nuclear facilities and locations outside facilities where nuclear material is customarily used (LOFs) declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement. Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities for Iran remained ongoing.

24. Since Implementation Day, the Agency has been verifying and monitoring the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.

25. The Director General will continue to report as appropriate.

United Nations S/2016/984

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 21 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the thirty-third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) (S/2016/962).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms the positions it has previously communicated in its identical letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council responding to the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic finds it regrettable that the Secretariat has persisted in taking a counterproductive, partial, biased and unprofessional approach to the important, sensitive and pivotal issue of humanitarian assistance in Syria. The responsibilities and mandate of the Secretariat require it to address in earnest the concerns that the Syrian Government has raised in monthly letters on the topic. This raises a number of questions:

(a) Why does the Secretariat persist in ignoring the fundamental factor that has brought the humanitarian situation in Syria to crisis point, namely the presence of terrorism? The Secretariat denies the reality that combating terrorism is the basic precondition for an immediate and tangible improvement to the humanitarian situation in Syria. The facts show that the humanitarian situation has improved considerably in former areas of armed terrorist activity that have been liberated by the Syrian Government and its allies.

(b) Why has the Secretariat bogged itself down in dubious attempts to legitimize and defend the presence of armed terrorist groups in Syria? It has described the groups using such broad and non-legal terms as "non-State opposition groups" and "armed non-State groups". The crimes, violations and acts of terrorism committed by the armed terrorist groups and their backers have been documented; yet the Secretariat continues to avoid calling things by their proper names.

(c) Why does the Secretariat ignore the support provided by the regimes of Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, alongside certain Arab governments that claim to

be concerned about the rights and humanitarian plight of the Syrian people? Why does it ignore the armed terrorist groups active in Syria, which have murdered and destroyed, denied Syrians access to basic services, and prevented humanitarian assistance from reaching those who need it?

(d) Why has the Secretariat espoused the position of certain States that are hostile to the Syrian Government? The Secretariat is supposed to treat all States members of the United Nations in a transparent and equitable manner. It is supposed to uphold the Charter and objectives of the United Nations, not the interests of specific States.

(e) Why is the Secretariat afraid to expose and condemn the role of certain States and actors that support terrorism in fomenting and prolonging the crisis in Syria, hampering efforts to find a solution, and bringing the humanitarian situation and living conditions to crisis point?

(f) Why does the Secretariat persist in including in its reports erroneous information, unsubstantiated claims and inaccurate statistics?

(g) Why are the reports and other writings of the Secretariat regarding the situation in Syria consistently prone to exaggeration, politicization and misinformation?

(h) The Secretariat ought to adopt a new approach to the humanitarian situation in Syria, one that is based on professionalism and objectivity. It should designate staff members who are better trained and more professional, and not hostile towards Syria, to oversee the drafting of these reports. What is preventing it from doing so?

Over the last few years, the Secretariat has written 33 reports on the humanitarian situation, yet the crisis has tragically endured. The Secretariat has deliberately helped to exacerbate the situation. It has provided erroneous information to global public opinion and dampened international efforts to combat terrorism.

Following is the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding certain aspects of the current report of the Secretariat:

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regrets that, like previous reports, the report under consideration fails to achieve its presumed goal, which is to review the humanitarian situation in Syria and enhance efforts to address it without favouritism, politicization or selectivity. The Government also regrets that the Secretariat has endeavoured to level accusations against the Syrian Government and disparage the tremendous efforts that it is making to provide Syrians with basic services and support, combat terrorism and restore security and stability in all the regions and cities of Syria, in order to improve the humanitarian situation of Syrians and strengthen their resilience, and to enable displaced Syrians to return to their homes and resume their normal lives.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again finds it deplorable that the Secretariat and the authors of the report have deliberately ignored the constitutional and legal right of the Government under international law to defend its people from terrorism, particularly terrorism perpetrated by Islamic State in Iraq

and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and the terrorist organizations and persons associated with them.

The Syrian Government rejects the Secretariat's deliberate refusal to acknowledge that the successful delivery of humanitarian assistance provided by United Nations and international organizations to both stable and unstable areas, most recently in October 2016, would not have been possible without the assistance, facilitation and efforts of the Syrian Government.

The Secretariat persists in disregarding the reasons why people in the eastern and western parts of Aleppo city are suffering. Aleppo was once the economic capital of Syria, and its inhabitants enjoyed a decent standard of life and access to services. The city and its people are now facing strain in the areas of security, health, education and living conditions. That situation was caused by armed terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters, who were brought to Syria from all over the world via Turkish territory with the assistance of the Erdoğan regime. Those terrorists are funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, armed by the Americans and Europeans, and espouse the extremist Wahhabist ideology of Saudi Arabia that is founded on hatred, negation of the other and murder, all of which are repudiated by Syrians. It is the terrorists who have taken the inhabitants of eastern Aleppo as human shields, preventing them from leaving the city. Every day, they have fired dozens of missiles at the western neighbourhoods of Aleppo, killing and wounding thousands. These are the terrorists to whom the Secretariat refers as the "armed opposition". The Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the Secretariat seeks to blame the suffering of Syrian civilians in Aleppo on the Syrian State and its allies that are fighting terrorism in Aleppo.

On 18 October 2016, a cessation of Syrian-Russian activities in Aleppo was announced, and the Syrian Government facilitated the arrival of a team comprising United Nations entities working in Syria, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to facilitate the evacuation of civilians from the eastern neighbourhoods of Aleppo. However, the armed terrorist groups prevented the evacuation from going ahead. Deplorably, the Secretariat has denied their responsibility for doing so. The fact that the armed terrorist groups have wilfully prevented the evacuation is a clear sign that they intend to continue using civilians in the eastern neighbourhoods as human shields and bargaining chips, with no regard for their living conditions or health, or the presence of children, women and the elderly.

It is unacceptable that the current report of the Secretariat says nothing about the violations of international law and international humanitarian law committed in eastern Aleppo by the armed groups, which have used the population as human shields and prevented civilians, the sick and the disabled from leaving via the crossing points designated for the voluntary evacuation of civilians who wish to exit the city.

The Syrian Government once again rejects the selective approach that the Secretariat adopted with respect to the situation in eastern Aleppo and specific areas of Syria. Such an approach is not consistent with the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law. All of Syria, including eastern and western Aleppo, is suffering as a result of the terrorism perpetrated by armed terrorist groups, the attacks carried out by the so-called international coalition and the coercive

unilateral economic measures imposed by the Americans and the Europeans. It is now well know that the Secretariat will focus on specific areas whenever the terrorist groups in those areas find themselves in dire straits. It has already done so with regard to such areas as Darayya and the old city of Homs. In that connection, the Syrian Government recalls that the Secretariat has for several years remained shamefully silent with regard to the siege imposed on western Aleppo by terrorists, who rained hundreds of shells on the area, killing hundreds of civilians.

The Secretariat ignores the close alliance between the armed terrorist groups and the terrorist organizations ISIL and the Nusrah Front, both of which are on the relevant Security Council lists, and the fact that they coordinate their attacks against civilians and Syrian government forces in Aleppo. Yet those groups' leaders have acknowledged this alliance and admitted that it is impossible to make a distinction between the armed groups that some like to designate "moderate" and the ISIL and the Nusrah Front terrorist organizations. The Secretariat has paid no attention to this extremely important issue, which ought to have prompted it to re-think its approach to the humanitarian situation in Syria generally and Aleppo in particular, and to call into question the ways in which it has violated the rules by referring to the terrorists in Aleppo as "armed opposition" and stubbornly defending them while they violated the rights of Aleppans.

The Syrian Government rejects the Secretariat's attempt to hide the fact the armed terrorist groups were responsible for the attack against the humanitarian convoy destined for Urum al-Kubra that resulted in the death of many innocent civilians and relief workers. In the same way, the Secretariat has covered up the fact that the armed terrorist groups deployed in eastern Aleppo, particularly the Nur al-Din al-Zanki movement, targeted the living quarters and offices of the United Nations team in Aleppo. The Secretariat refers to the incident in general terms without determining responsibility, even though it knows without a doubt who the perpetrators are.

The Syrian Government finds it deplorable that, in paragraph 21, the Secretariat fails to identify those actually responsible for the suffering inflicted on Aleppans by the shortage of medicine, food and electricity. Instead, the Secretariat has used the usual broad and inaccurate expressions to cover up the fact that terrorists are to blame. The terrorists have cut off the supply of drinking water to Aleppo city. They have stolen food and medicine intended for civilians. They are also the ones who fired missiles and mortar shells are to blame for the destruction of the Sulayman al-Halabi pumping station and other infrastructure, including electrical stations, water purification stations, oil wells and bridges. The Syrian Government also wishes to point out to the Secretariat that the delay in repairing the water and electrical stations in Aleppo and across the country are a result of significant shortages of fuel and spare parts, which cannot be imported owing to the unilateral economic measures imposed on Syria by Europe and the United States.

The Syrian Government regrets that the Secretariat has continued to depend on unreliable and biased information sources whose aim is to provide misleading information and deliberately tarnish the image of the Syrian Government. Meanwhile, the Secretariat continues to ignore reports that focus on the crimes committed by terrorists and the governments that are financing them and facilitating their passage into Syrian territory, so that they can perpetrate massacres and

exacerbate the humanitarian plight of Syrians. Perhaps the worst example of this is the reliance of the Secretariat on speculative and biased reports and information issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the reports of which have proven, time and again, to be lacking in objectivity, neutrality and credibility.

The Syrian Government deplores the reluctance of the Secretariat to state explicitly that ISIL and the Nusrah Front are terrorist organizations, and the failure of the Security Council, as yet, to characterize the Front for the Conquest of the Levant, the successor of the Nusrah Front, as a terrorist organization.

The Syrian Government rejects the attempts of the Secretariat to promote the operations carried out by the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America. It furthermore regrets the wilful omission of any reference to the civilian casualties and massive infrastructure damage caused by the aerial bombardment, including, in particular, the targeting of power plants and electricity transmission and storage infrastructure, as well as well as economic and oil installations. The Syrian Government once again strongly condemns the deliberate targeting of numerous parts of Syria by the aircraft of the States members of the so-called coalition.

The Syrian Government condemns the Secretariat's wilful and repeated disregard of the catastrophic humanitarian repercussions for Syrians of the ongoing coercive unilateral economic measures imposed by the United States of America, the European Union and other States on the most vital service sectors, such as health care, education, energy, food, water and electricity, that provide for the daily needs of Syrians, strengthen their resilience and supply them with necessary services.

Without good reason, the Secretariat has failed to fulfil its responsibility to monitor and report on how those economic measures, which are illegal under international law, have helped to exacerbate the humanitarian situation in Syria, although the Syrian Government has drawn attention to this matter repeatedly. The Secretariat has also failed to cite in its monthly report the reports of its representatives in Syria regarding the effect of those measures on the humanitarian situation in Syria. This constitutes indisputable evidence that the Secretariat is unprofessional and biased and favours the States that are imposing those measures.

The Syrian Government condemns the Secretariat's persistence in reiterating the same political and legal error that it had made previously by describing, in paragraphs 4, 5, 7 and 12, the armed terrorist groups as the non-State armed opposition, although the Secretariat is aware that those groups comprise Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Front for the Conquest of the Levant (the Nusrah Front), which are included on the Security Council list of individuals and entities associated with the ISIL and Al-Qaida terrorist organizations, as well as numerous, variously named, terrorist groups that are ideologically, financially and logistically linked to the two latter terrorist organizations. Syrian society has rejected the barbaric, extremist thinking of those groups, their poisonous ideology and their brutal and inhumane practices.

The Syrian Government finds it regrettable that Secretariat continues to promote the cross-border delivery of assistance, even though it is clear that such

delivery is ineffective and that most of the assistance thus delivered falls into the hands of armed terrorist groups in the targeted areas. The notifications sent to the Syrian Government do not meet the minimum standard of credibility with regard to figures, data, number of beneficiaries and information on the parties that receive and distribute assistance to civilian beneficiaries. The Secretariat also continues to exaggerate the amount of assistance provided and express underserved thanks in that regard to certain Governments that are recruiting foreign terrorist mercenaries from around the world and facilitating their passage into Syria, and recruiting displaced persons in camps in neighbouring States, arming them and deploying them to Syria so that they can attack the Syrian State and people.

In that connection, the Syrian Government reiterates that the United Nations monitoring mechanism cannot verify that cross-border assistance is reaching its rightful beneficiaries, and has thus far proven to be incapable of doing so. We remind you that the Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salamah and Ramtha crossings are entry points for arms, materiel and ammunition being smuggled to armed terrorist groups in Syria. The Syrian Government confirms that the Syrian Arab Red Crescent stands ready to monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance to its intended recipients, but the Secretariat has failed to respond to that proposal.

The Syrian Government finds it unacceptable that, in speaking of the obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the Secretariat failed to refer to the responsibility of armed terrorist groups, described as "moderate" by some Western Governments and radical regimes in the region, for obstructing the delivery of such assistance to areas where those groups are prevalent or have imposed siege and for preventing Syrian Arab Red Crescent representatives from entering several areas and delivering aid.

The Syrian Government wishes to inform the Secretariat that the party responsible for the suffering of the Palestine refugees, which have taken the inhabitants of the Yarmouk camp, the Khan al-Shaykh camp and other areas hostage, and are restricting their movement and access to humanitarian aid.

The Syrian Government affirms the importance and centrality of the facilitation and support that it provides to United Nations organizations and programmes. During the reporting period, numerous medical evacuations were carried out and humanitarian assistance was provided to a number of Syrian communities and towns, without distinction. In particular, several patients were evacuated from the town of Madaya in Rif Dimashq, which also received humanitarian assistance thanks to the efforts and swift response of the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to the humanitarian and health needs of the town's inhabitants. The Syrian Government reiterates that those who are behind the armed terrorist groups besieging the towns of Fu'ah and Kafraya are the main reason for the failure to reach an agreement that would finally end the suffering not only in those two towns but also in Zabadani and Madaya. The Syrian Government provides a genuine and swift response to emergency situations.

The Syrian Government once again strongly condemns the Secretariat's continuing bias towards the Turkish Government to the detriment of the hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians in Hasakah governorate who have been affected by that Government's deliberate closure of the Nusaybin border crossing and its refusal to approve United Nations requests for humanitarian assistance destined for

Hasakah governorate to be brought in via that crossing. The Syrian Government reaffirms that the temporary closure of the crossing over a number of months, since December 2015, is not for security reasons but rather for well-known political reasons. In short, it is aimed at increasing the suffering of Syrian civilians in Hasakah and Qamishli besieged by armed terrorist groups, notably ISIL.

The Syrian Government finds it regrettable that the Secretariat continues to include in the report inaccurate or unreliable figures and statistics on the number of visa applications submitted by United Nations agencies. The correct information is that, in October, the Syrian Government approved 37 entry visa applications for staff of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies. The Government had also approved the renewal of 54 visas, and not 46 as stated in the report.

The Syrian Government regrets the Secretariat's ongoing effort, as in paragraph 33 of the report, to paint a negative picture of the work being done by foreign non-governmental organizations in Syria and to allege that they are facing administrative obstacles. The Syrian Government would like to correct the inaccurate information contained in the Secretariat's current report:

- To date, the number of international non-governmental organizations authorized to carry out relief and humanitarian work in Syria stands at 24, not 17. In November, a United States non-governmental organization was added to the list of international non-governmental organizations authorized to work in Syria.
- The Syrian Government is providing those organizations with all possible facilitation and assistance to carry out their work as effectively as possible and in a way that responds to the needs of as many affected Syrians as possible, in accordance with Syrian laws and regulations.

The most significant obstacles impeding the work of those organizations and their ability to execute projects rapidly are the unilateral economic measures imposed by the Europeans and the Americans against Syria. Those measures have prevented those organizations from securing and receiving the funding they require and securing the supplies, material and equipment they need to execute their projects in Syria. For example, the non-governmental organization Oxfam was unable for some time to secure diesel fuel to supply the water purification plant in Aleppo because the European Union did not permit the importation of that fuel for that purpose. This prevented Oxfam from executing the project and, coupled with the cutting off of water pipes by armed terrorist groups, caused a sharp drop in the amount of drinking water available to the residents of Aleppo.

The Syrian Government is surprised that the Secretariat states that United Nations staff are being detained. That is absolutely untrue. The Syrian Government has informed the United Nations of the status of several of its local staff members who were arrested on charges of cooperation with terrorists and had their cases referred to the competent courts.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership without foreign intervention and without preconditions. It stresses that the political approach goes hand in hand with counter-terrorism efforts, which will continue until all armed terrorist groups active

throughout Syria are eradicated. In that connection, the Syrian Government stresses that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General needs to carry out his duties and reminds the Secretariat that the success of the political process and any significant improvement in the humanitarian situation will depend, above all, on creating a climate conducive to a serious and non-politicized international and regional commitment to fighting terrorism and on an immediate end to the unilateral coercive economic measures being imposed on the Syrian people with no legal or moral basis.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its call on the Security Council to prevail on those States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to refrain from doing so, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and terrorist financing, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and enforcement of those resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering an unprecedented amount of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the identical letters dated 21 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Crimes and indiscriminate attacks committed by ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Conquest, Ahrar al-Sham, the Army of Conquest and other armed terrorist groups and ignored by the authors of the report

- During the reporting period, attacks carried out by certain armed terrorist groups with, inter alia, mortar shells and explosive devices, killed 98 civilians and injured hundreds of others.
- Armed terrorist groups shelled the city of Dar'a, killing one adult and six children, injuring 31 civilians, including women and children, and causing significant material damage.
- Armed terrorist groups fired 12 shells at the residential neighbourhoods of Abbasiyyin, Bab Tuma, Hamidiyah, Amarah, Umawiyyin Square and Qassa', in Damascus and Rif Dimashq. A woman was killed; several civilians, including women and children, were injured, some of them severely; and significant material damage was caused.
- On 1 October 2016, in the city of Aleppo, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki battalion, the Islamic Front, Liwa' al-Tawhid, the Badr Martyrs Brigade, the Emigrants Brigade and Northern Shield, which had deployed in the Bustan al-Basha, Rashidin and Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhoods, fired scores of mortar shells, rockets and gas cylinder missiles at the Sulayman al-Halabi, Aziziyah, Shahba', Maydan, Maysalun, Furqan and Idha'ah neighbourhoods. Nine people were killed; 25 others, including women and children, were injured; and some buildings, shops, vehicles and infrastructure were damaged.
- Armed terrorist groups fired three shells at the countryside north of Homs city, killing a child.
- On 7 October 2016, in the city of Aleppo, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki battalion, the Islamic Front, Liwa' al-Tawhid, the Badr Martyrs Brigade, the Emigrants Brigade and Northern Shield, which had deployed in the Bustan al-Basha, Rashidin, Bustan al-Qasr and Ansari neighbourhoods, fired scores of mortar shells, rockets and gas cylinder missiles at the Sulayman al-Halabi, Aziziyah, Shahba', Maydan, Maysalun, Furqan and Idha'ah neighbourhoods, killing nine people and injuring 75 others, including women and children, and damaging some buildings, shops, vehicles and infrastructure.
- On 5 October 2016, armed terrorist groups detonated the Barada spring water main in the area between the Fijah spring and Dayr Qanun. The water main feeds the Fijah spring, the Qudsaya neighbourhood and the Marwan wells in Dimas.

- Armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Confederation of Glory and Jund al-Aqsa fired a rocket at the village of Zulaqiyyat near the town of Muhradah. A woman and child were killed by shrapnel.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 21 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Examples of humanitarian assistance that was delivered during October 2016 thanks to the facilitation provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in addition to the assistance provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, thanks to the facilitation of the Syrian Government, delivered to various governorates humanitarian food, non-food and medical assistance provided from inside Syrian territory by United Nations agencies. A total of 2,061,685 beneficiaries (407,796 families) received food parcels provided by the World Food Programme through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The number of beneficiaries of United Nations humanitarian assistance, in the form of food parcels alone, distributed from inside Syrian territory is estimated at 3,494,489 beneficiaries (698,897 families).

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with various forms of cooperation from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, delivered to most governorates humanitarian assistance provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross from within Syrian territory. Estimates are that 114,932 food packages were delivered to 574,660 beneficiaries, in addition to the tens of thousands of packages of canned food, other food items and kitchen supplies delivered to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with cooperation from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, delivered humanitarian assistance (food, non-food and medical items, water purifiers, wheelchairs and baby food) provided by United Nations agencies, ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and non-governmental organizations in Syria.

- From 2014 through the end of May 2016, a total of 136,982 food parcels and 42,580 medical parcels have been delivered to the inhabitants of the camp by UNRWA. That is in addition to the continuing operation to provide non-food aid, other foodstuffs and medical care. We also note that the Palestine refugees in Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham are inhabitants of Yarmouk camp who were displaced from the camp after the terrorist organization ISIL overran it in April 2015 in collusion with the terrorist Nusrah Front and other terrorist groups present inside the camp. UNRWA has ceased to provide its assistance to residents of the Yarmouk refugee camp through Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, because the armed terrorist groups inside the camp issued a statement declaring themselves to be the only bodies authorized to oversee the distribution of assistance and to receive aid convoys entering Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham.

United Nations S/2016/985

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 November 2016
English
Original: French

Letter dated 21 November 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 November 2016 from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 July to 30 September 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

16-20655 (E) 221116 221116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 November 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I hereby attach a quarterly report on Kosovo Force operations covering the period from 1 July to 30 September 2016 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

[Original: English]

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. The present report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is provided in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 July to 30 September 2016.

2. As at 30 September 2016, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained approximately 4,600.

3. There were no major security incidents during the reporting period.

Security situation and operations

4. During the reporting period, the security situation in Kosovo remained stable, and no inter-ethnic incidents occurred. In general, the trend is gradually growing more positive, as Serbia and Kosovo remain committed to the European Union-led dialogue process.

5. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to monitor the situation and to maintain situational awareness. KFOR also continued to work in close cooperation and coordination with the Kosovo Police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). KFOR remained ready to provide immediate intervention as the third responder, if required. However, there was no requirement for direct intervention by KFOR during the reporting period.

6. The mission of KFOR to contribute to a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement has continued as part of a comprehensive international effort.

Summary

7. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to contribute to both maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement, in close coordination with EULEX and the Kosovo Police. The close coordination on the ground between KFOR, in its capacity as the third responder, and EULEX and the Kosovo Police continues to be highly effective.

United Nations A/71/627–S/2016/986

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 November 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 32, 37 and 39

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 21 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the allegations made by the Republic of Armenia in its written communication for the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" (A/71/91).

Thus, in a false expression of solidarity and in an effort to climb on the bandwagon, Armenia has tried to attach itself to the overwhelming and consistent international support for Cuba simply in order to accuse Azerbaijan and another regional country of "a continuing blockade" allegedly imposed against it.

This is not the first striking example of preposterous methods employed by Armenia in its senseless attempts to mislead the international community and deny its responsibility for apparent non-compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The first question that arises in this connection is why Armenia has resorted to the above-mentioned allegation, which is absurd in substance and irrelevant owing to its inclusion in its written communication for the report of the Secretary-General on Cuba, instead of introducing its own "case" to the General Assembly or the Security Council.

The reason for such inconsistency and caution is obvious. There is no blockade of Armenia at all.

16-20694 (E) 281116

Please recycle

The total disruption of all relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including economic, transport and energy links, is a direct consequence of Armenia's continuing aggression against Azerbaijan and its military occupation of its territories. Obviously, with its policy of aggression and territorial claims towards its neighbours, Armenia bears sole responsibility for isolating itself from full-fledged regional cooperation and for the current dire economic situation facing the country.

In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), the Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its international borders, and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

In the above-mentioned resolutions, the Security Council clearly conditioned the restoration of economic, transport and energy links in the region on the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

However, the aforementioned key Security Council demands have still not been implemented by Armenia. Moreover, Armenia's annexationist claims and uninterrupted efforts towards further consolidating the current status quo of the occupation and preventing the return of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to their homes and properties represent an open challenge to the conflict-settlement process and a serious threat to international and regional peace and security.

In fact, the Armenian side, including at the highest political level, has also accepted that settlement of the conflict and respect for international law are the necessary preconditions for enabling economic cooperation. Thus, for example, the joint declaration signed by the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation on 2 November 2008, at Meiendorf Castle, the Russian Federation, inter alia, states that signatories will work towards a political settlement of the conflict on the basis of the principles and norms of international law and the resolutions and documents adopted in this framework, which will create favourable conditions for economic development and all-encompassing cooperation in the region.

International economic relations are governed by the fundamental principles of sovereign equality of States, non-aggression and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives emphasized in particular that the Agenda was to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law and reaffirmed the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has successfully developed its cooperation with regional and global partners and has either initiated or actively promoted a number of very large transregional transportation and energy projects, the implementation of which contributes considerably to the sustainable economic growth of Azerbaijan and other countries in the region and beyond.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda items 32, 37 and 39, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/987

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 November 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 21 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to draw your attention to important new information regarding the continued efforts of Hezbollah, the internationally recognized terror organization, to acquire arms and related materiel, with the assistance of Iran, in clear violation of numerous Security Council resolutions.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force, Iran's primary arm for executing its policy of support for terrorist activities in the Middle East and around the world, is using commercial flights from Iran to Lebanon in order to transfer arms and related materiel to Hezbollah. Iran is using airlines such as Mahan Air, which was designated by members of the international community as providing financial, material and technological support to the Quds Force, in order to supply Hezbollah with the capacity to enhance its missile arsenal.

The arms and related materiel are packed in suitcases by the Quds Force in Iran and transferred directly to Hezbollah operatives by one of two methods:

- Direct air shipment from Iran, using commercial flights, to Rafik Hariri Airport in Beirut.
- Air shipment from Iran, using commercial flights, to Damascus and then transfers, by land, of the arms and related equipment to Lebanon.

It is clear that Iran is still the primary supplier of arms and related materiel to Hezbollah, in blatant violation of numerous Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 1559 (2004), 1701 (2006) and 2231 (2015).

These actions follow recent threats against Israel made by the leadership of Hezbollah and Iran, which were also detailed in recent reports of the Secretary-General on Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004). The credibility of these threats must be seen in the context of Hezbollah's massive military build-up in Lebanon, which it has been carrying out undisturbed for years. Hezbollah has amassed more than 120,000 rockets and missiles, many of which have the range to target any city in Israel, and has stationed them amid the civilian population in southern Lebanon.

Please recycle

The time has come for the Security Council to respond firmly against Hezbollah's ongoing military build-up and Iran's destabilizing behaviour. Hezbollah must be disarmed.

The Security Council must condemn Iran and Hezbollah for the violation of its resolutions, for its arming of terrorists throughout the Middle East and for acting to destabilize the region.

The Security Council must also demand that the Government of Lebanon abide by its obligations and fully implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) by preventing the illegal transfer of arms and related materiel to Hezbollah.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/988

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 November 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 21 November 2016 with regard to the viewpoint of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the strengthening of its nuclear forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-20692 (E) 281116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Democratic People's Republic of Korea strengthening its nuclear forces is a righteous choice to defend itself from the extreme moves of the United States to stifle it

Five years have gone by since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), after having lost its great leader, engaged itself in an all-out confrontation with the United States (US) imperialists to cope with their ever-worsening hostile moves and increasing nuclear threat against it.

The people of the DPRK have turned out in the struggle to implement the behest of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, overcoming the pain and sorrow of having lost him. The US has employed all kinds of means and methods in vicious moves to check the advance of the DPRK and tried to seize the opportunity to stifle it.

However, the anachronistic hostile policy and nuclear threat that the US have enforced with unprecedented recklessness against the DPRK have only provoked its just and righteous countermeasure for self-defence and have ended up in total and complete failure.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK hereby issues this memorandum to disclose the criminal acts of the US, which has pushed the DPRK towards the strengthening of its nuclear forces by making ceaseless hostile moves against it after it suffered the greatest loss of the nation.

1. Heinous hostile manoeuvres against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aimed at political suffocation and system collapse

Since 2012, soon after the passing away of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, the US began to openly pursue the objective of politically stifling the DPRK and overthrowing its system by all means.

Blatant remarks denying the DPRK Government, system and policy were made by high-level officials of the US and even Obama himself has constantly heaped malicious slander and criticism on the DPRK in his public appearances.

The gravity of the hostile manoeuvres of the US against the DPRK lies in the fact that they have grown extremely reckless and dangerous as to target the supreme leadership of our revolution.

The Obama administration dared to defame the supreme dignity of the DPRK as an extension of their malicious slander on it. This is the gravest of all sins which will never be forgiven for eternity.

This fully reveals the true nature of the policy of "strategic patience" pursued by the Obama administration, which is none other than an aggressive and heinous "strategic suffocation" policy against the DPRK.

By this time, the "human rights" racket which the US has long made against the DPRK has grown so reckless as to attempt to put their wild ambition of overthrowing the DPRK system into practice.

The US has gone so far as to breach the basic principles of international laws and ditch its dignity of a superpower by pleading with other countries to join their pressure racket against the DPRK by downgrading or severing ties with it.

The US political acts of hostility against the DPRK find graphic accounts in the following record of events:

- On 25 March 2012, Obama clamoured about the "isolation" of the DPRK while condemning its strengthening of a nuclear deterrent;
- In June 2012, the US Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues disclosed the provision of funds by the State Department to anti-DPRK media entities;
- On 16 August 2012, Obama signed the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act;
- Between March and June 2013, the US State Department released reports entitled "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report", "DPRK Human Rights Report", "International Religious Freedom Report" and "Trafficking in Persons Report" to intensify its condemnation against the DPRK on baseless or fabricated data and allegations;
- On 17 January 2014, Obama signed the Appreciation Act for the 2014 fiscal year, which allocated a huge amount of funds for the anti-DPRK "human rights" racket;
- On 26 February 2014, US Secretary of State Kerry, in a press interview, labelled the DPRK as an "evil place" and said they should "hold it accountable";
- On 15 April 2014, the US State Department officially announced its provision of funds to anti-DPRK "human rights" groups;
- From 23 to 26 April 2014, during his visit to Japan and south Korea, Obama criticized the DPRK as the "worst violator of human rights";
- On 23 September 2014, US Secretary of State Kerry personally called a high-level meeting on North Korea human rights in New York and fanned the atmosphere of pressurizing the DPRK;
- On 18 November 2014, an anti-DPRK "human rights resolution" was coercively adopted at the meeting of the Third Committee of the General Assembly at the instigation of the US;
- On 22 December 2014, the US pressed for a meeting of the Security Council with the agenda item of the DPRK "human rights situation";
- On 22 January 2015, Obama made malicious remarks about the "collapse" of the DPRK in an interview;
- On 17 and 18 May 2015, during his visit to south Korea, US Secretary of State Kerry provoked the supreme leadership of the DPRK by talking about "reckless disregard for human rights" and "the most egregious examples";

- On 10 December 2015, the US has put the "human rights situation" of the DPRK on the agenda of the Security Council, abusing its presidency of the Council;
- On 18 February 2016, Obama signed the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, which included psychological warfare and a "human rights" offensive against the DPRK to disintegrate it from within;
- On 6 July 2016, the US State Department released a report, pursuant to the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, that made impudent remarks about the supreme leadership of the DPRK while maliciously condemning the country;
- On 20 September 2016, Obama labelled the DPRK as a "wasteland" in his speech at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly;
- On 12 October 2016, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs made vehement criticism of the supreme leadership of the DPRK;
- On 28 October 2016, during his visit to south Korea, the US Deputy Secretary of State condemned the policy of the DPRK Government as "reckless and inhumane".

The political acts of hostility committed by the US against the DPRK since its great leader passed away were indeed the most vicious, frantic and despicable of all time.

2. Intensification of the extremely dangerous military hostility and nuclear threat and blackmail

During the past five years, the US revealed its intention to deliver a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the DPRK and intensified its military threats against us at a maximum pace.

The US consistently increased the scale and intensity of the aggressive joint military drills which it conducts on annual basis, creating extreme tension on the Korean peninsula, driving the situation to the brink of nuclear war and seriously endangering peace and security in the region.

To take the example of the Key Resolve joint military exercise, one of the typical joint military drills of the US and the south Korean puppets, 2,100 US troops participated in the exercise in the year 2012, but the US has steadily increased the number of troops to 3,500 in 2013, 5,200 in 2014 and 8,600 in 2015, and, in 2016, 27,000 troops participated in the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 2016 joint military exercises.

Beside the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises, the US conducted over 40 provocative and aggressive military drills under various names on an annual basis, including Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise, Max Thunder joint air force exercise, Double Dragon joint landing exercise and multilateral RIMPAC naval exercise, joint naval strike exercise, joint special force exercise, joint live firing exercise, and so on. The total number of troops the US has committed to these exercises reached over 500,000.

Not only the scale of these war drills has increased, but also their character, purpose and contents have become more and more provocative and frantic every year.

The US, obsessed with its ambition to invade the DPRK, has been deploying various kinds of modern military equipment and assets in and around the Korean peninsula and has tried to threaten and blackmail it with nuclear weapons.

Since 2012, the US has consistently conducted various kinds of military drills against the DPRK, deploying its naval forces in and around the Korean peninsula, including the nuclear carriers *USS George Washington*, *USS Nimitz*, *USS Ronald Reagan* and *USS John C. Stennis*, the flagship of the US Navy 7th Fleet *USS Blue Ridge*, nuclear submarines *USS Ohio*, *USS San Francisco*, *USS Bremerton*, *USS Columbus*, *USS Olympia*, *USS North Carolina* and *USS Mississippi*, Aegis cruiser *USS Shiloh*, Aegis destroyers *USS Michael Murphy* and *USS Kidd*, guided missile destroyer *USS Spruance*, and so on.

In addition, the US moved B-1B, B-2 and B-52 nuclear strategic bombers from the US mainland to Guam, and they flew to south Korea several times to conduct drills for landing and dropping nuclear bombs with the purpose of getting ready for a surprise nuclear pre-emptive strike against the DPRK.

Despite severe criticism and condemnation at home and abroad, the US proceeded with the deployment of the terminal high-altitude area defence system (THAAD) to south Korea in full scale.

The US has rapidly intensified its military provocations against the DPRK since 2012, and here are some examples:

- From 27 February to 30 April 2012, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises. These exercises were aimed at the mourning period in our country after the passing away of the great leader and were conducted in accordance with its all-out war scenario OPLAN 5027 and OPLAN 5029 allegedly aimed at coping with "contingency" in the north.
- On 22 June 2012, the US conducted the largest ever joint live firing exercise, together with the south Korean puppet army at the south of the demilitarized zone, using the DPRK flag as a target.
- From 20 to 31 August 2012, the US conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian exercise in accordance with its "actual war scenario" against the DPRK. The flagship of the US Navy 7th Fleet and over 30,000 troops participated in this exercise.
- From 1 March to 30 April 2013, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises. The nuclear carrier *USS George Washington*, a nuclear submarine and a huge amount of forces and war machines were mobilized for these exercises. During the exercise, a B-52H nuclear strategic bomber and a B-2 stealth bomber flew into the sky above south Korea and dropped dummy munitions, and F-22 stealth fighters were deployed to the Osan air force base in south Korea.
- From 19 to 30 August 2013, the US conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise. Over 30,000 US troops participated in this exercise,

and, during the exercise, B-52 nuclear strategic bombers flew into the sky above south Korea several times.

- On 5 February 2014, a B-52 nuclear strategic bomber flew into the sky above the west sea of the Korean peninsula and carried out drills for air strike.
- From 24 February to 18 April 2014, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises. The purpose of these exercises was to take control of the DPRK nuclear facilities and to occupy Pyongyang. The US applied the "Protocol for US-ROK combined forces to respond to localized provocations by North Korea" and the "Tailored Deterrent Strategy" to these exercises.
- On 6 August 2014, three B-2 nuclear strategic bombers moved from the US mainland to Andersen air force base in Guam.
- From 18 to 29 August 2014, the US conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise. Over 30,000 US troops participated in this exercise, and they carried out a drill for a surprise pre-emptive strike against the DPRK in accordance with the "Tailored Deterrent Strategy".
- From 2 March to 24 April 2015, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises aimed at "removing the DPRK headquarters" and "occupying Pyongyang".
- On 10 January 2016, a B-52 nuclear strategic bomber took off from the air force base in Guam and flew into the sky above the Military Demarcation Line.
- From 7 March to 30 April 2016, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 2016 joint military exercises and disclosed its plan for a "decapitation operation" and "high-density strike".
- On 26 April 2016, Obama, in an interview, said "We don't want them getting close [...] We could, obviously, destroy North Korea with our arsenals".
- On 17 June 2016, a B-52 bomber fleet exercised the dropping of nuclear bombs in the sky above south Korea.
- On 8 July 2016, the US announced, together with the south Korean puppets, their agreement to deploy THAAD in south Korea.
- On 6 August 2016, for the first time in 10 years, the US stationed several B-1B nuclear bombers in Guam, and three additional B-2 nuclear strategic bombers on 9 August.
- Around 23 August 2016, B-1B, B-52 and B-2 nuclear strategic bombers took off at the same time from Guam and flew to the Korean peninsula.
- On 13 September 2016, two B-1B US nuclear strategic bombers flew into the sky above south Korea, and again on 21 September, and this time one of them landed at the Osan air force base in south Korea.

As one can see from the above-mentioned facts, the reckless and dangerous provocations of the US to seek military invasion and the collapse of the DPRK were highly intensified and reached an extreme phase.

3. Inhumane sanctions aimed at economic suffocation

The manoeuvres of the US to impose sanctions on the DPRK are age-old, and their viciousness is also widely known to the world. However, what the US did in the past five years was indeed unprecedented in its pace and intensity.

The US regarded economic sanctions as the main tool for implementing its hostile policy against the DPRK and employed every heinous and vicious means to suffocate the DPRK.

The US made an issue of the legitimate right of the DPRK to the peaceful development of outer space and its build-up of self-defensive nuclear deterrence and made frantic attempts to fabricate heinous "sanctions resolutions" by usurping the Security Council.

All the "sanctions resolutions" fabricated at the Security Council by the US and its followers against the DPRK pursue the heinous goal to deprive the DPRK of its right to existence, subsistence and development by blocking the regular economic activities of the DPRK through all despicable means and methods.

Through the so-called United Nations "sanctions resolutions", the US seeks to prevent the DPRK from its routine financial transactions with other countries; put all the channels linked to the DPRK under tight control; force the inspection of any vessel sailing to and from the DPRK and prohibit entry of such vessels into ports of other countries; and have other countries deny permission to any aircraft of the DPRK to take off from, land in and overfly their territory.

The US went so far as to devise a provision for the "ban on export and import of luxury goods" and prevented the import of sport apparatus, which has nothing to do with the development of arms, and even included daily necessities and children's toys in the list of "banned goods".

Pursuant to the anti-DPRK "sanctions resolutions" it has forged, the US is running amok to impose unilateral sanctions while forcing other countries to get on board.

The following are the facts and figures about the abhorrent anti-DPRK sanctions manoeuvres made by the US over the past five years:

- On 18 June 2012, Obama declared the extension of State emergency and economic sanctions targeting the DPRK pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.
- On 22 January 2013, the US made an issue of the peaceful satellite launch of the DPRK and instigated the Security Council to adopt the "sanctions resolution 2087 (2013)". On 24 January, the US State Department and the Treasury Department announced unilateral sanctions on the basis of the "resolution".
- On 7 March 2013, the US pushed the Security Council to adopt the "sanctions resolution 2094 (2013)", while making an issue of the third nuclear test of the DPRK, which was a righteous measure for self-defence. The Treasury Department declared unilateral sanctions, pursuant to the "resolution".

- In September 2013 and November 2014, the US Treasury Department issued a warning to all US financial institutions urging them to maintain the financial sanctions against the DPRK at the highest level.
- From 23 to 26 April 2014, during his visit to Japan and south Korea, Obama talked about tougher "sanctions" and "pressure" against the DPRK.
- On 2 January 2015, Obama issued an executive order to impose sanctions on the DPRK with regard to the alleged hacking into Sony Pictures Entertainment and, pursuant to the order, the Treasury Department enforced the sanctions.
- In July, September, November and December 2015, the US State Department and the Treasury Department designated individuals and entities of the DPRK to be subject to the additional sanctions.
- On 18 February 2016, Obama signed the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, a law on comprehensive sanctions and pressure targeting the DPRK.
- On 2 March 2016, the US instigated the Security Council to adopt the "sanctions resolution 2270 (2016)" by taking issue with the H-bomb test and peaceful satellite launch of the DPRK. The US State Department and the Treasury Department enforced sanctions pursuant to the "resolution" as well as unilateral sanctions.
- On 16 March 2016, Obama issued an executive order to impose sanctions on the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK. The Treasury Department designated the individuals, entities and vessels of the DPRK to be subject to the unilateral sanctions.
- On 1 June 2016, the US Treasury Department designated the DPRK as a "jurisdiction of primary money-laundering concern".
- On 6 July 2016, the US State Department bitterly condemned the DPRK in its report issued pursuant to the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, and the US Treasury Department announced unilateral sanctions as a follow-up.
- On 4 November 2016, the US Treasury Department issued a final rule under section 311 of the Patriot Act to further restrict the access of the DPRK to the US financial system.

The ongoing economic sanctions imposed by the US are indeed the toughest of all time, and they are vicious hostile acts seeking to suffocate the overall economy of the DPRK, undermine the people's livelihood and ultimately isolate and stifle the DPRK.

As shown by the facts above, during the past five years, the US has designated the DPRK as the primary target for attack and regime change in the implementation of their aggressive Asia-Pacific domination strategy and has steadily and systematically intensified political, military and economic pressure on it.

The desperate hostile policy of the US towards the DPRK gave rise to the self-defensive measures from the latter.

In response to the US hostile acts of having wantonly violated the legitimate right of the DPRK to peaceful satellite launch and having fabricated another "sanctions resolution" by instigating the Security Council, the DPRK conducted the third nuclear test, on 12 February 2013, as part of practical countermeasures to safeguard the country's security and sovereignty.

The H-bomb test conducted for the first time by the DPRK in January 2016 was also a self-defensive measure to firmly protect the country's sovereignty and the nation's right to existence and guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula and the regional security from the frantic attempts of the US to put in place the harshest ever political isolation, economic blockade and military pressure and even impose nuclear holocaust on the DPRK.

Deeply unnerved by the strengthened nuclear forces of the DPRK, the US sought reckless military provocations, even touting about the "decapitation operation" and "high-density strike". To cope with these nefarious provocations of the US, the DPRK demonstrated the mighty nuclear strike capabilities of juche in Korea through the disclosure of a miniaturized nuclear warhead and successful test fire of submarine-launched ballistic missiles and surface-to-surface medium- and long-range strategic rocket Hwasong-10.

On 9 September 2016, the DPRK made a successful nuclear warhead detonation as part of its substantive countermeasures against the threats and sanctions by the US and other hostile forces who severely criticized the exercise by the DPRK of the right to self-defence and doggedly denied its strategic position.

All the facts above clearly substantiate the truth that the root cause of escalated tension on the Korean peninsula lies with the US hostile policy and nuclear threats against the DPRK, not the latter's nuclear and missile tests.

The DPRK has chosen the road of possessing nuclear weapons as a self-defensive measure to safeguard its State and system from the constant nuclear threat of the US. We are strengthening our nuclear forces both in quality and quantity, holding fast to the line of simultaneously developing the national economy and nuclear forces as our strategic line.

The US should face up to the new strategic position of the DPRK and take actual measures to show that they are willing to scrap its anachronistic hostile policy and nuclear threat against the DPRK.

This, and only this, will be the first base of resolving all the issues.

United Nations A/71/625–S/2016/989

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 18 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to international organizations, the parliaments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation regarding the latest developments in Syria (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-20737 (E) 061216

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Annex to the letter dated 18 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to international organizations, the parliaments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation regarding the latest developments in Syria

Armed conflict in Syria that has lasted for six years now, as well as the latest tragic events unfolding before our eyes in eastern Aleppo, including the outrageous bombing of a United Nations humanitarian convoy on 19 September 2016 and the barbaric methods used for the total annihilation of the civilian population, have obliged the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to issue this statement.

From the very beginning of the Syrian conflict, Ukraine has been committed to its position regarding the territorial integrity of Syria and continues to stick to this consistent position as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

The final point of destination of the political process lies in the restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, the establishment of a credible, inclusive, secular transitional government of national unity, amendments to the constitution and the holding of free and fair elections.

The Ukrainian parliament supports the mission of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and other international initiatives of influential international organizations, such as the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which are aimed at a settlement of the Syrian conflict.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is concerned with the dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria, in which the number of Syrians forced to leave their homes has reached 13 million — more than half the pre-war population of the country. We also strongly condemn the use of chemical and other types of non-conventional weapons against civilians by the Syrian regime, with the direct support of its allies, first and foremost the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the Security Council, and by terrorist organizations.

In the course of 2016, namely, in February and September, the United States of America and the Russian Federation have twice reached an agreement on the cessation of hostilities between the sides in the Syrian conflict, and twice those agreements were breached. Neither side in the conflict has shown the necessary commitment to its obligations.

The Russian Federation is now waging two parallel wars with impunity: one in the Ukrainian Donbas and the other in Syria. As in Donbas, in Syria, Russia violated its obligations to de-escalate the conflict the very moment those arrangements were made and further stirred up violence right away by deploying additional troops, supplying more weapons and ammunition, waging war and spreading propaganda that more closely resembles that of the middle of the past century.

We deem as absolutely unacceptable the impunity of the Syrian regime and its allies in the mass killing of civilians that is currently happening in Aleppo. Of particular concern is the cynical missile bombing of the United Nations humanitarian convoy in Aleppo on 19 September 2016, which happened just after the Government of Syria had unilaterally walked away from the cessation of hostilities.

In the Security Council, Ukraine has, on multiple occasions, drawn attention to the fact that external support for the Syrian regime by Russia has become a decisive factor that has led to the present catastrophic status quo and resumption of the escalating violence.

We see a similarity between the aggressive policy of Russia in Ukraine and in Syria. Using the counter-terrorism motto as a smokescreen, the Russian leadership is pursuing the aim of supporting the dictatorial regimes and creating zones of instability in all regions that it considers its own spheres of influence.

We underscore the high risk of stirring up a full-scale sectarian war in the Middle East as a result of the events in Syria, as well as the fact that Russia uses the illegally occupied Crimea as a military hub to support and supply its military operations in Syria. While Russia is shamelessly "bragging" about the successful testing of its sophisticated weaponry in Syria, the death toll in Syria has reached 300,000, according to the official statistics.

The Russian Federation continues to demonstrate a complete neglect of the principles and norms of international humanitarian law and an absolute lack of any respect for basic human values.

Unfortunately, the Russian side continues to play a destructive role in the process of a peaceful settlement of the Syrian conflict and actively abuses its veto power in the Security Council, blocking any constructive initiative of the international community aimed at bringing peace to Syria.

During the meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Syria, held on 8 October 2016, Russia, in fact, voted for the continuation of its criminal policy of killing civilians and destroying civilian infrastructure in Syria. However, the results of the vote at the meeting showed that a majority of the Council members publicly condemned Russia's aggressive actions in Syria.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine stands for an immediate cessation of the bloodshed, for the utmost use of political and diplomatic means to resolve the conflict and for the necessity of bringing to justice those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and the customs of war.

In this regard, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine urges:

- All concerned parties to contribute to the creation of the necessary preconditions for the restoration of the political settlement process aimed at establishing an inclusive transitional governance body in Syria, followed by the adoption of the constitution and the holding of elections in accordance with the 2012 Geneva communiqué and Security Council resolution 2254 (2015)

- The parties to the armed conflict in Syria:
  - To stop active military action in the entire territory of Syria, in particular in Aleppo, and to observe the cessation of hostilities in accordance with Security Council resolution 2268 (2016)
  - To respect the norms of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law
  - To provide conditions for the creation of humanitarian corridors to evacuate the wounded
  - To start negotiations on a political settlement of the conflict in Syria based on Security Council resolutions
  - To stop attacks on vehicles delivering humanitarian aid to the civilian population
- The parties to the armed conflict, in particular the Russian Federation, to halt indiscriminate attacks, stop the use of indiscriminate weapons and other prohibited means and warfare methods in Syria, including a halt to the use of the air force and artillery against civilians in areas with large concentrations of people and residential areas
- The Security Council to establish an international group of experts to investigate the war crimes of the Syrian regime and its ally, the Russian Federation
- All members of the Security Council to take full responsibility and appropriate measures to prevent a further escalation of the conflict and the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in front of all mankind, which poses the risk of repeating the tragedies of Srebrenica, Rwanda and Grozny
- International organizations, in particular the United Nations and the European Union:
  - To increase pressure on Putin's regime with the aim of making the Russian Federation commit itself to respecting international law, human rights and international humanitarian law during armed conflict on the territory of Syria
  - To investigate cases of serious violations of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law during armed conflict in Syria, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to bring to justice those who have committed the most serious crimes during the armed conflict in the territory of Syria
- International organizations and parliaments of foreign States:
  - To condemn the actions of the Russian Federation that are aimed at using the military conflict in Syria as a "testing ground" for its newest weapon systems and arms
  - To condemn the Syrian regime and the Russian Armed Forces in the territory of Syria for bombing areas with large concentrations of people and residential areas of civilians, as well as vehicles delivering humanitarian aid to the civilian population.

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I transmit herewith two separate annexes recording the infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I), as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships during the month of October 2016 (see annex II). It should also be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal Tympou airport.

Furthermore, I wish to inform you that the occupation regime illegally issued three notices to airmen, on 18 and 25 October, relating to exercises conducted by the Turkish Air Force.

In addition, more recently the occupation regime has started interfering with radio frequencies, including the distress and emergency frequencies of the Republic of Cyprus, thus obstructing the smooth operation of the NAVTEX service that delivers navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts as well as urgent maritime safety information to ships.

Turkey's actions clearly aim at undermining the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, bolstering the continuing de facto division and upgrading the secessionist entity's status by claiming a purported airspace over the occupied territory of the Republic. In addition, Turkey continues to systematically harass civilian and military aircraft within the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) via radio calls. Meanwhile, Nicosia FIR infringements and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus continue unabated. Turkey's policy of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations puts the safety of international civil aviation at risk, has a negative impact on the stability of the region and causes difficulties for air traffic over Cyprus.

It should be further underlined that the continuation of Turkey's illegal actions creates tension during a period critical to the successful outcome of the ongoing negotiation process for a peaceful, comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

16-20789 (E) 071216

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On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the continuing infringements of international air traffic regulations and the violations of the national airspace and the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey and appeal for their immediate cessation. The Republic of Cyprus reiterates, in this respect, its call for adherence to the principle of sovereignty and non-interference enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the seventy-first regular session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**

Annex I to the letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
3 October	1030-1048	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia air control centre (ACC).
5 October	1500-1525	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1827-1841	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
6 October	1038-1208	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
8 October	1500-1655	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
11 October	1030-1119	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1143-1256	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1439-1622	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1444-1618	One UH-1 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
12 October	1046-1152	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1104-1158	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1400-1530	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
13 October	1510-1612	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
14 October	1016-1131	Two AS-532 Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1122-1251	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
17 October	1037-1159	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1404-1516	One S-70 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1657-1714	One GLF-5 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
19 October	1115-1311	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1500-1616	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1542-1553	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1546-1554	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1619-1638	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1757-1809	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1844-1853	One GLF-5 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
22 October	1030-1135	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
23 October	1035-1235	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
24 October	1510-1602	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1544-1613	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
25 October	0950-1200	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
26 October	1409-1634	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1532-1626	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
27 October	1742-1930	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
28 October	1011-1134	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
31 October	0840-1308	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1155-1210	One ATR-72 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1155-1552	One ATR-72 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

Date	*Nature of violation*
24 September-4 October	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
30 September-5 October	One A-1581 Turkish buoy-laying vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Kerynia.
6-7 October	One A-1581 Turkish buoy-laying vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
7-11 October	One A-1581 Turkish buoy-laying vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
10-12 October	One P-331 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
11-12 October	One A-1581 Turkish buoy-laying vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
12-17 October	One A-1581 Turkish buoy-laying vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
15-21 October	One P-333 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
25-26 October	One A-1600 Turkish vehicle carrier vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
31 October	One P-334 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.

United Nations S/2016/991

Security Council

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28 November 2016
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 23 November 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic for 18-22 November 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for these bulletins to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Iliichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

16-20979 (E) 291116 301116

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Annex to the letter dated 23 November 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (18 November 2016)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, reconciliation agreements have been signed with representatives of four populated areas in Hama (3) and Ladhiqiyah (1) governorates.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 951.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of illegal armed groups in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 69.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Over the past 24 hours, there were 42 reports of shelling by illegal armed groups in Aleppo governorate (21), Damascus governorate (16), Hama governorate (3), Ladhiqiyah governorate (1) and Dar'a governorate (1).

Armed units of the Free Syrian Army used multiple-launch rocket systems, mortars and small arms to fire on the Bayadah and Salah al-Din neighbourhoods in Aleppo city, and on Abu Ali mountain in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

In Damascus governorate, armed units affiliated with the Army of Islam opposition group used mortars and small arms to fire on Jawbar, Kafr Batna, Bludan and Bilaliyah, and on the area near the Abbasiyin stadium.

Armed units of the Ahrar al-Sham group used multiple launch-rocket systems and mortars to shell Karmil in Damascus governorate.

In Aleppo governorate, terrorist groups using multiple launch-rocket systems, mortars and small arms fired on Ansari and Shurfah and also on the Dahiyat al-Assad (twice), Sheikh Said, Hay es Sheikh Maksud (twice), Minyan, 3000, 1070 and Hamidiyah neighbourhoods, the Castello trade centre (twice), areas near the gasworks, the former military school and the paperboard factory, the Assad Military Academy (twice) and the Hikmah School in Aleppo city.

In Damascus governorate, terrorists fired on Jawbar (three times), Irbin, Hawsh Nasri, the Wafidin camp, the Ibn al-Walid Hospital, the Maliki and Muhajirin municipal areas, and Tall Kawkab mountain.

Armed units of terrorist groups also shelled Muhradah (twice) and Mu'ardis (Hama governorate), and Ibta' (Dar'a governorate).

The Russian and Syrian air forces did not carry out any strikes against opposition armed groups which had announced that they would cease hostilities and had informed the Russian or American reconciliation centres of their location.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours six humanitarian operations were carried out, during which the following humanitarian cargoes were delivered to civilians:

Approximately 1 ton to Khirbat al-Ma'azzah in Tartus governorate;

300 kg to the district hospital in Tartus;

Approximately 200 kg to Karhada in Tartus governorate;

3 tons to Tall Urun in Aleppo governorate;

Approximately 2 tons to Mutabin in Dar'a governorate;

Approximately 400 kg to Salamiyah in Hama governorate.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for civilians who leave districts of Aleppo city that are under the control of illegal armed groups.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (19 November 2016)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, reconciliation agreements have been signed with representatives of five populated areas in Hama (3) and Ladhiqiyah (2) governorates.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 956.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of illegal armed groups in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 69.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Over the past 24 hours, there were 41 reports of shelling by illegal armed groups in Aleppo governorate (21), Damascus governorate (15), Ladhiqiyah governorate (3), Hama governorate (1) and Qunaytirah governorate (1).

In Damascus governorate, armed units affiliated with the Army of Islam opposition group used improvised multiple launch-rocket systems, mortars and small arms to fire on Kafr Batna, Bilaliyah, Qassa' and Bludan, the highway near Duma and the area near Abbasiyin stadium in Jawbar.

Armed units of the Free Syrian Army shelled Ansari in Aleppo city and Kara Jagez in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

In Ladhiqiyah governorate, the Ahrar al-Sham group shelled Ayn al-Qantarah and government troop positions on Abu Ali mountain.

In Aleppo governorate, the terrorist groups Jabhat Fath al-Sham (Nusrah Front) and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) used improvised multiple launch-rocket systems, anti-tank grenade launchers, tube artillery, mortars and small arms to fire on Shurfah and Hadir and also on the Dahiyat al-Assad, Layramun, Ashrafiyah, Hay es Sheikh Maksud, Minyan, Sulayman al-Halabi, Maydan and Sheikh Said neighbourhoods, the Castello trade centre, the Hikmah School, areas near the former military school, the gasworks, the Assad Military Academy and the paperboard factory in Aleppo city.

The following were shelled in Damascus governorate: Jawbar; the Muhajirin and Mazra'ah districts in Damascus city; the Wafidin camp and the Ibn al-Walid Hospital; and government troop positions on Tall Kawkab mountain.

Armed units of terrorist groups also shelled Suran (Hama governorate) and Harfa (Qunaytirah governorate).

The Russian and Syrian air forces did not carry out any strikes against opposition armed groups which had announced that they would cease hostilities and had informed the Russian or American reconciliation centres of their location.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours two humanitarian operations were carried out, during which the following humanitarian cargoes were delivered to civilians:

Approximately 1.5 tons to Akramiyah in Homs governorate;

500 kg the Tariq bin Ziyad district in Aleppo city.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for civilians who leave districts of Aleppo city that are under the control of illegal armed groups.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (20 November 2016)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, reconciliation agreements have been signed with representatives of five populated areas in Hama (3) and Ladhiqiyah (2) governorates.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 961.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of illegal armed groups in Damascus governorate and armed opposition units in the Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire has increased to 70.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Over the past 24 hours, there were 42 reports of shelling by illegal armed groups in Aleppo governorate (20), Damascus governorate (19), Hama governorate (2) and Ladhiqiyah governorate (1).

In Damascus governorate, armed units affiliated with the Army of Islam opposition group used mortars and small arms to fire on Bludan, Jawbar and Kafr Batna, the highway near Duma and the area near Abbasiyin stadium in Jawbar (twice).

Armed units of the Syrian Free Army shelled the Salah al-Din neighbourhood in Aleppo governorate.

In Ladhiqiyah governorate, the Ahrar al-Sham group shelled Karmil.

In Aleppo governorate, armed units of the terrorist groups Jabhat Fath al-Sham (Nusrah Front) and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) used multiple launch-rocket systems, tube artillery, mortars, anti-tank rocket launchers and small arms to fire on Shurfah and also on the Layramun, Binyamin (twice), 1070, Jamiliyah, 3000, Skeikh Said (twice), Dahiyat al-Assad (twice) and Hay es Sheikh Maksud neighbourhoods, areas near the paperboard factor and the former military school, the Hikmah School, the Assad Military Academy, the area near the gasworks, the Castello trade centre and the Aleppo citadel in Aleppo city.

In Damascus governorate, the following were shelled: Irbin (three times), Hawsh Kharabu, Qabun, Jawbar, Hawsh Nasri (twice), farms in Duma, the Wafidin camp, a sports ground in Jawbar (twice) and the Adawi district in Damascus.

In Hama governorate, terrorists shelled Suran and the thermal electric power station in Muhradah.

The Russian and Syrian air forces did not carry out any strikes against opposition armed groups which had announced that they would cease hostilities and had informed the Russian or American reconciliation centres of their location.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours three humanitarian operations were carried out, during which the following humanitarian cargoes were delivered to civilians:

Approximately 1.5 tons to Dardariyah in Homs governorate;

600 kg to Aleppo University in Aleppo;

Approximately 1 ton to Kafr Dabil in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for civilians who leave districts of Aleppo city that are under the control of illegal armed groups.

Additional information

Over the past 24 hours, eight fighters have left districts of Aleppo under the control of illegal armed groups.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (21 November 2016)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, reconciliation agreements have been signed with representatives of six populated areas in Hama (3) and Ladhiqiyah (3) governorates.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 967.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of illegal armed groups in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to adopting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is 70.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Over the past 24 hours, there were 50 reports of shelling by illegal armed groups in Aleppo governorate (24), Damascus governorate (19), Hama governorate (2), Ladhiqiyah governorate (2), Qunaytirah governorate (2) and Dar'a governorate (1).

In Damascus governorate, armed units affiliated with the Army of Islam opposition group used mortars and small arms to fire on Bludan and Kafr Batna, the highway near Duma and the area near Abbasiyin stadium in Jawbar.

Armed units of the Syrian Free Army shelled the Salah al-Din and Bayadah neighbourhoods in Aleppo governorate.

In Ladhiqiyah governorate, the Ahrar al-Sham group shelled Rasha and government troop positions on Abu Ali mountain.

In Aleppo city, the terrorist groups Jabhat Fath al-Sham (Nusrah Front) and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) used multiple launch-rocket systems, tube artillery, mortars, anti-tank grenade launchers and small arms to fire on Bakartayah, on the Aryan, Layramun, Hananu Sharqi, Shahba', Mogambo, Sheikh Said, Hay es Sheikh Maksud, Hamidiyah, Binyamin, Salahin, 3000 neighbourhoods, and on areas near the watermelon market, the gasworks, the former military school and the Hikmah School.

In Damascus governorate, the following were shelled: Hawsh Nasri, Irbin and Hawsh Kharabu, the Wafidin camp, the Ibn al-Walid Hospital and a sports ground in Jawbar.

Armed units of terrorist groups also shelled Suran and Muhradah in Hama governorate, government troop positions near the area at elevation point 1222 in Qunaytirah governorate, and Basir in Dar'a governorate.

The Russian and Syrian air forces did not carry out any strikes against opposition armed groups which had announced that they would cease hostilities and had informed the Russian or American reconciliation centres of their location.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours five humanitarian operations were carried out, during which the following humanitarian cargoes were delivered to civilians:

Approximately 700 kg to Hawarin in Homs governorate;

1 ton to the New Aleppo district in Aleppo;

Approximately 3.5 tons to Assan in Aleppo governorate;

Approximately 2.5 tons to Palmyra in Homs governorate;

Approximately 3 tons to Ba'rin in Hama governorate.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for civilians who leave districts of Aleppo city that are under the control of illegal armed groups.

Additional information

Over the past 24 hours, 10 civilians and seven fighters have left besieged areas of Aleppo city.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (22 November 2016)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, reconciliation agreements have been signed with representatives of four populated areas in Hama (2) and Ladhiqiyah (2) governorates.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 971.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of illegal armed groups in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to adopting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is 70.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Over the past 24 hours, there were 46 reports of shelling by illegal armed groups in Aleppo governorate (19), Damascus governorate (23), Hama governorate (2), Qunaytirah governorate (1) and Dar'a governorate (1).

In Damascus governorate, armed units affiliated with the Army of Islam opposition group used mortars and small arms to fire on Bludan, Jawbar, Kafr Batna and Qassa' and also on the Mazzah and Adawi neighbourhoods, the highway near Duma and areas near Abbasiyin stadium in Jawbar (twice) and the Fayha' sports complex.

Armed units of the Syrian Free Army shelled the Mashariqah neighbourhood in Aleppo governorate.

In Aleppo governorate, the terrorist groups Jabhat Fath al-Sham (Nusrah Front) and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) used multiple launch-rocket systems, tube artillery, mortars and small arms to fire on Bakartayah and also on the Skeikh Said, Layramun, Binyamin (three times), Aryan (twice), Andalus, 3000, Jam'iyat al-Zahra' and Ashrafiyah neighbourhoods, areas near the gasworks, the Syriatel cellular station and the watermelon market, and the Hikmah School and the Castello trade centre (twice).

In Damascus governorate the following were shelled: Jawbar (five times), Harasta al-Qantarah, Hawsh Nasri (twice), Irbin (three times) and Hawsh Kharabu.

Armed units of terrorist groups also shelled Muhradah and Hama Airport in Hama governorate; government troop positions near the area at elevation point 1222 in Qunaytirah governorate; and Kafr Shams in Dar'a governorate.

The Russian and Syrian air forces did not carry out any strikes against opposition armed groups which had announced that they would cease hostilities and had informed the Russian or American reconciliation centres of their location.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours one humanitarian operation was carried out, during which approximately 2.5 tons of humanitarian cargo was delivered to civilians in Masyaf (Hama governorate).

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for civilians who leave districts of Aleppo city that are under the control of illegal armed groups.

Additional information

Over the past 24 hours, nine civilians and three fighters have left besieged areas of Aleppo city.

United Nations S/2016/992

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 November 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 21 November 2016 from the Representative of the Israeli regime to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/987), I have the honour to state the following:

1. The letter, once again, contains a flurry of baseless and unsubstantiated accusations that are levelled against my country without, as usual, a shred of evidence; accusations, none of which are "important new information", as the author of the letter falsely claims, but old rehashed ones.

2. The accusation of the violation by Iran of "numerous Security Council resolutions", referred to in the letter, is equally baseless and this time amusing too, as it amounts to an innovative in-bulk levelling of accusations against a United Nations Member State. At least, a regime that has brazenly flouted all United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions about the lands it criminally occupies is not in a position to broach such a claim against other nations.

3. In addition, it is absurd and hypocritical for the representative of a regime that has occupied the lands of other peoples for so many decades and denied every basic right of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to occasionally accuse my country of violating international law.

4. It is equally absurd and hypocritical for the representative of a regime that has for long been involved in terrorizing and indiscriminately targeting the Palestinian civilians, including women and children, in their own land, and in terrorist targeted killings and assassinating individuals in many parts of the world, to accuse Iran of sponsoring terrorism.

5. Last but not least, this kind of accusatory claim by the Israeli regime against other countries, including mine, is, after all, a typical Israeli attempt to smokescreen their criminal policies and acts against the innocent Palestinians, including keeping a 2 million community under siege for 10 years, once in a while bombing and shelling residential areas, destroying schools and hospitals, demolishing houses, confiscating dwellings, violating the sanctity of religious shrines and so on and so forth.

Please recycle

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated to all members of the Security Council and as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamhossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires

United Nations A/71/637–S/2016/993

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 32
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 23 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the signature by the President of the Russian Federation on 22 November 2016 of the law on the ratification of the so-called "agreement" with the Sokhumi occupation regime on the establishment of the Joint Group of Armed Forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-21189 (E) 081216

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 22 November 2016, the President of the Russian Federation signed the law on the ratification of the so-called "agreement" with the Sokhumi occupation regime on the establishment of the Joint Group of Armed Forces.

These kinds of provocative steps by the Russian Federation are directed towards the annexation of the occupied regions of Georgia, which is a complete disregard of the fundamental principles and norms of international law and undermines the established international order.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns this illegal step by the Russian Federation, which represents a rude violation of the territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the sovereign State and a demonstration of aggression against Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the Russian Federation to honour the obligations undertaken and fully comply with the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, withdraw its military units from the occupied territories of Georgia and ensure the establishment of international security arrangements in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the international community to give a due assessment of the aggressive moves of the Russian Federation and take effective measures to avoid further aggravation of the security situation in the region.